

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGKO 34499 270233Z
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PER-01 DHA-02 ORM-02 /015 W
-----270237Z 126763 /70
P 270145Z DEC 75
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7546

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FOR EA/EX, SCARRITT

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: OCON, SREF, TH
SUBJ: FSL STAFFING FOR REFUGEE WORK IN THAILAND

REF: A. BKK 29214, B. SCARRITT-RIEGER TELCON 12/25/76,
C. BKK 33812, D. STATE 288426

1. IN REFTELS THE EMBASSY REQUESTED ONE U.S. AND THREE LOCAL THAI POSITIONS TO CARRY THE ONGOING WORK THAT CONTINUES TO BE GENERATED BY REFUGEES IN THE U.S. AND THAILAND. SINCE MAKING THE ORIGINAL REQUEST IN REF A, ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW CONDITIONAL ENTRY PROGRAM FOR INDOCHINESE REFUGEES UNDER THE IMMIGRATION AND NATIONALITY ACT, MAKES IT CERTAIN THAT THERE WILL BE A CONTINUING FLOW OF REFUGEES, PARTICULARLY BOAT CASES TO THE U.S. FROM THAILAND.

2. WITH THE FINAL CLOSE-OUT OF THE EPP-INTERAGENCY TASK FORCE PROGRAM ON DEC 31, THE FUNCTIONS OF THE BANGKOK REFUGEE OFFICE HAVE BEEN TRANSFERRED TO EMBASSY'S CONSULAR SECTION. WE HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO RE-LOCATE IT IN THE SAME BUILDING BUT THE REFUGEE UNIT, PLUS ITS FILES ON THE 23,000 REFUGEES MOVED TO THE U.S., HAVE BEEN LOCATED IN SPACE IN THE USIS COMPOUND

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ADJACENT TO THE CONSULAR SECTION.

3. AT SCARRITT'S BEHEST, ADMIN COUNSELOR HAS PERSONALLY IN PAST WEEK GONE OVER STAFFING OF THE CONSULAR SECTION AND CONFIRMED OUR EARLIER ASSESSMENT THAT NO RESOURCES

CAN BE FOUND THERE TO TAKE ON THE REFUGEE WORK, GIVEN
THE REGULAR NEEDS OF THE CONSULAR SECTION.

4. IF AUTHORIZATION TO RETAIN THREE LOCAL THAI
EMPLOYEES WITH ALMOST TWO YEARS' EXPERIENCE IS NOT
GRANTED, WE WILL SUFFER A CRITICAL LOSS OF KNOWLEDGEABLE
LOCAL STAFF. GRANTING OF THREE 90-DAY FSL PIT POSITIONS
WILL PERMIT US TO BRIDGE THE GAP UNTIL THE QUESTION CAN
BE RE-EXAMINED BY THE FS INSPECTORS IN FEB-MAR.

5. EMBASSY WOULD BE GRATEFUL FOR ASSISTANCE FROM
EA/EX.
BURKE

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NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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